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MRS. STEPHEN DE COURCY, 79, HOSTESS TO ROYALTY

Mrs. Stephen de Courcy, who had been hostess to Queen Mary of England and other royalty, died on Thursday in her home, Alderbourne Manor, Buckinghamshire, England, according to word received here yesterday.

Long active in the promotion of Christian evangelistic and missionary work, she was in her eightieth year.

Mrs. de Courcy was the mother of Kenneth H. de Courcy, editor of Intelligence Digest, a magazine on world affairs published here and in London and Rome.

She was a director of his publishing company.

Born in England, Mrs. de Courcy was the daughter of the late Frederick William Shafer, an inventor, and a great-granddaughter of the late Marquis de Verneuil. She was Miss Minnie Shafer before her marriage in 1899 to Stephen de Courcy, who financed a large medical-religious center in England and was a cousin of the thirteenth Baron Kingsdale.

Mrs. de Courcy devoted a great part of her life to religious work. Her pamphlets on Christianity were translated into nine languages and distributed in various parts of the world.

At Alderbourne Manor, her home in Gloucestershire, England, her London house and on the continent she had entertained the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, King Leopold III of Belgium, King Humbert II of Italy, Archduke Otto of Austria and Yugoslav royalty.

Besides her son, she leaves another son, John de Courcy, of England, who is an editor.